

### AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method of identifying a compound that ~~modulates~~ is an allosteric modulator of intermolecular interactions from a distal site at a functionally critical site between a target protein and a modifier, ~~comprising~~ which method comprises the steps of

a) identifying a cavity on a target protein that is a measurable distance to from the functionally critical site of said target protein, ~~that is involved in intermolecular interactions with said modifier~~ said cavity being a candidate site for interacting with an allosteric modulator;

b) calculating the dimensions of said cavity and mapping the chemical and/or electrostatic properties of said cavity;

c) identifying compounds that contain functional groups that can be accommodated by said cavity;

d) testing said compounds in an in vitro assay to detect a compound which binds within the cavity of said target protein and allosterically modulates intermolecular interactions at the functionally critical site between said target protein and said modifier;

thereby identifying a compound that is an allosteric modulator of interactions at the functionally critical site between said target protein and a modifier.

2. (withdrawn from consideration) A pharmaceutical composition comprising:

a) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent; and

b) a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a structure selected from the group consisting of Formulae I-XIX.

3. (withdrawn from consideration) A method of treating an individual suffering from an inflammatory condition comprising the step of administering to said individual a therapeutically effective amount of a compound having a structure selected from the group consisting of Formulae I-III.







25. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the allosteric candidate cavity within the structure of a target protein in step b) comprises identifying thermal  $\beta$ -factors, using calorimetric values from thermodynamic studies, or using computer simulation algorithms.